AT THE ACADEMY.

Tuesday Night, Al. H. Wilson.
Wednesday, Matinee and Night, "The Runaways."
Friday Night, Mdme. Mantelli.
Saturday Matinee and Night, Kersand's Minstrels.

AT THE BIJOU.

There could hardly be complaint of lack of variety in the Academy's attractions this week.

Al. H. Wilson, "the golden voice" matinee idol, will present his "Prince of Tatters" with many new songs. There will be just the one performance Tuesday night.

"The Runaways" the famous extravaganza and musical comedy, comes direct from New York after six months of great success in the Casino. The same stupendous production used on Broadway will be brought here with over 100 people to give it. Messrs Shubert, Nixon and Zimmerman, famous as producers of such elaborate and wonderwith "The Runaways."

Madame Montelli, from the Metropolitan Opera, is one of the big musical stars of several seasons. She is said to have a splendid company about her, and Richmond is at last promised a taste of opera worth having.

The week closes with the minstrels.

Al. H. Wilson.

Last season's phenomenal success proved conclusively that the German dialect comedian and singer, Al. H. Wilson, who will be at the Academy Tuesday night, is an established star of merit and worth. He continues the present season under the management of Chas. H. Yale and Sydney A. Ellis in the new romantic play, "A Prince of Tatters," (a tale of old New York), written by Sidney R. Ellis. The management have surrounded Mr. Wilson with an excellent company of actors and actresses, special scenery and novel electrical and mechanical effects.

Messrs. Yale and Ellis have out-done themselves with this attraction and star, and are said to deserve the success that is alloted to them.

"The Runaways."

"The Runaways," the musical extravaganza which will be the attraction at the Academy Wednesday, matinee and night, is said to be the most elaborate of all the great Casino successes.

The plot of "The Runaways" concerns an American army officer, who was a waiter in his early days, and is now a plunger at the race track. He is a confirmed dyspeptic, and therefore it is quite reasonable to find him the guardian of a pretty army nurse. The General's horse wins the suburban, the horse being ridden for the occasion by the General's son, who is the black sheep of the family. This annoys a tall patent medicine man, and a short confederate who wanted to see another horse win. Therefore they all leave for an island on the Pacific Ocean—Facetiously called the Island of Table d'Hote. As soon as the General steps ashore he is made the King of the island, and he is expected to marry the Princess Angelcake, but she prefers the General's protege, Bob Gray. The General, thereupon, is requested to marry the six widows of the late King, all young and pretty, but he doesn't, and is sentenced to death instead, which is perhaps preferable. The medicine man, who is tall, and his confederate, who is short, are also doomed to die, but at a the critical moment, an American warship arrives. Then, of course, nobody is killed, but all are united to the girls of their choice.

The music by Mr. Raymond Hubbell is said to be exceedingly good, some of the twenty song hits being catchy enough to set the audience humming and whistling. The company is a strong one.

Mme. Mantelli's "Carmen."

The music in the second act of Carmen, where the gypsy girl meets the toreador, was never better sung, according to able critics, than by Mme. Mantelli. This great soporano, long the favorite of New York, and with successes to her credit in all the European capitals, has begun a tour of the cities of this country which will bring her here soon.

Her company is made up of well-known and well-trained singers, and the second act of Mignon and fourth act of Trovotaore, besides the Carmen act make up a bill tempting to music lovers. Mme. Mantelli appears in all of the operas, and for each there is a complete change of costume and scenery. The great diva and company will be at the Academy Friday night.

Walter D. Moses & Company have the subscription list at their store.

Kersand's Minstrels.

Kersands has surrounded himself with a company of men of rare ability, evidently selecting the best material afforded by the negro minstrelsy of this country. The show is admirably staged and the costumes a decided improvement over the conventional variety. The first part of the performance is especially praiseworthy. Kersands has some excellent balladists and the songs sung are new and catchy. There is a total absence of suggestiveness in the numbers succeeding the first part and all of the performers are first class. The work of Craig, the contortionist, is worthy of special mention. He is an acrobat of rare ability and contributes materially to the success of the performance.

The organization will play at the Academy Saturday, matinee and night.

"The Comic Opera Queen," in "The Runaways."

The Coming of Patti.

In a few days Adelina Patti will be headed for the Pacific coast. From Minneapolis she makes a clean jump to Salt Lake and from there to San Francisco.

Madame Patti has not visited that city for about fourteen or fifteen years. It was there that on the occasion of her first visit she played the famous engagement of three week's duration that netted a larger sum of money than had ever occurred in the same length of time anywhere.

Madame Patti, who will be heard here next month, is now about to revisit the Golden City and all the indications point to another wondrous engagement.

The Show Girl.

B. C. Whitney's production of Rice's Show Girl" or "The Magic Cap" company, which will be at the Bijou Theatre all next week, is a revival of R. A. Barnett's cadet extravaganza, transformed into a regular attraction by that veteran musical extravaganza producer Edward E. Rice. It is described to us as "a jolly bit of tomfoolery" in two acts. The book is by the author of those former great successes such as "1492," "Excelsior," "The Girl From Paris," "Little Christopher," etc. H. L. Heartz, author of "The Tenderfoot," and E. W. Corliss have contributed most of the music, the tunefulness of which is largely responsible for the cordial reception accorded the piece in New York, and all the other large eastern cities where it has been played.

The action of the play centers mainly about Captain E. Ross Armor, an English officer on the Northumberland Guards, on leave, and Cecelia Gay, "The Show Girl" of the stranded troupe. The natives of the island are full of superstitions and believe in the old legend that Psyche, Goddess of Love, will appear in a shrine near the sea during the month. Lord Cadwallader Dyce, High Commissioner of Cyprus, wagers a hundred guineas with Captain Armor that if he (Armor) will wait by the shrine at dusk he will see Psyche and fall a victim to her charms. To win the wager, Dyce seeks the aid of Manager Fly, the standard theatrical manager, who, by the agency of his wishing cap, causes Cecelia Gay, the leading lady of the troupe, to appear, much against her inclination, in the shrine. Armor sees her and becomes enamored with her. Psyche claims so suddenly that Armor is led to believe that she is a delusion. In his efforts to again find her the aid of many characters in the play is solicited, the three comedians and the wishing cap mixings things up into apparently a hopeless tangle.

The music is very tuneful with catchy melodic turns and stimulating, though simple enough to be caught by the audience. Especially is this so of "Over The Pommery Foam," "Psyche," "Somebody's Somebody," "Champagne and Terrapin," "The Sunbeam and The Rose," Under A Panama," the latest New York novelty sung by Stell Mayhew and a chorus of twenty pretty and stunning girls.

The cast, which is a large one, includes Stella Mayhew, Sam Mylle, Fern Melrose, Fred Truesdell, R. E. Warren, Josephine Floyd, Sid Forrester, Ada St. Clair, Chas. R. Haigh, May Sweeney, Chas. E. Parcor, Catherne Tanner, Edna Sweeney, Suzette Beatty, Three Faust Sisters, and fifty-five others, including thirty singing and dancing girls. The musical numbers are under the personal direction of Harry T. MacConnell, the well known producer of good music.

WITCH HAZEL.

Growth of an Industry in the River Towns of Connecticut.

Few persons who use witch hazel extract for the many purposes to which it is put are aware of the way in which it is manufactured. It has for years been used as an ingredient for toilet and shaving soaps, and owing to its great healing properties it is many times called golden treasure. The name witch hazel, or wich hazel, known by the Latin name of Hammamelis Virginians, came from the early settlers from England, where witch hazel, or wich hazel, is the name applied to an elm which grows in considerable quantity. The leaves of this shrub or small tree resemble those of the hazel, and its wood is often used to make the chests or boxes for provisions, formerly called wyches.

The American hazel is found in damp woods from Canada to Louisana. It is a shrub with long and pliant branches, which sometimes reach the height of 20 feet, but usually not over 10 feet. The flowers, from buds formed during the summer, open just as the leaves are falling in October and November. Its yellow petaled flowers blossoming at this time of year give it a strange appearance, which together with its healing properties helped to fasten upon it the name witch hazel. The fruit, which is a two-seeded capsule, matures the following summer.

The wood is white and close and the bark and leaves contain a large amount of tannin. The trunks are usually twisted, and owing to the spotted bark, slatish and white, the shrub is known throughout New England, at least, as spotted alder.

The small branches are often used as dividing rods in locating water, so great is the faith put in the shrub. Sometimes it grows to be as thick through at the butt as a man's arm, but usually it is from one to five inches in diameter, and this is the size desired by the witch hazel distillers.

While witch hazel is found generally throughout Connecticut, it grows much more thickly in some places than others; for instance, Simsbury is rich in this shrub, and in parts of Litchfield county it abounds. It is also found in goodly quantities along the valley of the Connecticut and in the hill towns nearby. So great has been the demand for brush that it has been largely cut off in many places in Middlesex county, especially along the river towns, and the manufacturers are reaching back to the country towns beyond to secure their supply. It usually takes three to five years for a new crop to grow.

Essex is really the home of the witch hazel distilleries, for there it has been distilled for many years, and also in neighboring villages.

About five gallons of alchohol to every barrel of extract is used. The securing of the brush has proved a profitable business for the farmers, as it is gathered in the fall and winter. As high as 3,600 pounds has been carried at one load. The brush delivered brings $3.50 a ton. Where it is purchased standing the price varies as to conditions in gathering, etc., from 50 cents to $1 per ton. Its yield can be imagined when it is known that about eight tons have been cut from 16 acres. It is easy to cut, and being left in piles, is gathered up, openings being left for the wagons to come through. —Hartford Courant.

FACTS AND FANCIES

About Dwarfs and Myths That Have Been Read About But Never Seen.

DESCENDANTS OF PYGMIES

A Pathalogical and Distinct Race That May Have Existed in Remote Ages.

Legends are useful, because sometimes they put us on the track of authentic facts. In the Homeric period reference was made to the race of pygmies, and yet nobody believed in their existence. It was only in comparatively modern times that ignorance had to yield to evidence when races of pygmies were found in Africa and in Asia. In Europe popular myths gave an important role to dwarfs and pygmies in England, Scotland and Ireland.

In Denmark they were called Kobold; in Germany, Niebelung and they were referred to in Russia, and even in France, as if the legends reflected the distant recollection of populations of little people who really lived in far-off ages. It is now proved conclusively that the ancient popular belief was founded in fact. It links the tradition to its starting point. The race of little people existed almost everywhere.

Numerous skeletons of dwarfs are found in Egyptian necropoli, in Greek and Roman statuary, in the frescoes of Pompeii, and in some ornamental ceramic vases of Roman Gaul. Numerous skeletons of pygmies, mingled with those of men of ordinary stature, have been found in a number of prehistoric sepulchres.

We should also mention the skeletons of pygmies found in the sepulchres of the neolithic period at the time of the excavations in Switzerland under the direction of Miesch and Killmann. Then came the discoveries of M. Manourbrier and of Vacher de Lapouge in Heroult, and in the cases of the Cevennes, and more recently those of M. Thilemus in Siberia.

It is certain that there existed in remote ages a race of dwarfs which remained as a distinct race for a long time. Traces of them are found among the Romans and the Slavs. According to Gulturan of Colmar, these races of dwarfs peopled Switzerland and the whole of lower Alsace, while Miesch and Kollmann claim that they were the primitive people of Europe.

The assertion is also made that, inasmuch as traces of pygmies are found in many parts of the world, they probably were the advance guard of the present variety of the human race, just as in the case of animals the big came from the little. It was toward the close of the ninth century that all trace of them as a collectivity was lost. Nevertheless, after that period isolated specimens of them were found from time to time, particularly in the different courts of Europe, where they were employed as jesters.

At the present time, as everybody knows, dwarfs still exist; but there are dwarfs and dwarfs. Dwarfism, or the diminution more or less remarkable of the ordinary stature, has been of late the subject of important investigation.

There is evidently a pathological dwarf. That type has an ensemble of clinical signs, giving him a place set apart for himself. Professor Poncet, of the University of Lyons, and M. Rene Leriche in a very interesting communication to the Academy of Medicine, entitled "Dwarfs of the Present Time and Dwarfs of Long Ago," have just brought up the question whether among the pathological dwarfs there has not often been erroneously included an important category of dwarfs that should be separated from them, because they belong to nothing in pathology and because in reality they are only very little men, remnants of the ancient race of dwarfs.

These isolated specimens come down from prehistoric times. They present the peculiarity of being an ethnical attribute and consequently hereditary, while the only dwarfs considered in medical literature are creatures reduced in all their proportions and whose fundamental character is their inaptness for reproduction.

From this category M. Poncet and M. Leriche separate the ancestral dwarfism which is determined by the atavic recall of the ancient type of pygmies type which disappeared in our regions about the middle of the Christian era. M. Poncet and M. Leriche base their opinions upon two curious observations.

They made a study of two creatures, brother and sister, born in a little village on the banks of the River Ain. They are both fine specimens of pygmies. Their stature is three feet eleven and one-fourth inches and three feet ten inches. Their father and grandfather were of small stature, each standing four feet six. They were intelligent, strong and muscular. Their mother is still living. She is forty-nine years old, and in height, measures four feet eight inches. Her third child, a young woman of twenty-six summers, is slightly above the average female stature. She is five feet six inches. Pierre, the oldest son, is thirty one years old. His intelligence is normal. He has the head and body of the average man.

There is nothing particular about him except the shortness of his limbs. His bones are large, but not deformed. His hands are small, and his muscles are powerful. He can hold with ease a weight of thirty-five pounds with the arm fully extended. His sister is twenty-eight years old, very intelligent, and perfectly satisfied with her small stature. Her head is normal, but her limbs, especially the lower limbs, are short. She weighs ninety-four pounds, and has no organic defect.

M. Poncet and M. Leriche claim that these two specimens are genuine dwarfs—that is to say, dwarfs by heredity—and not pathological dwarfs. The specimens described above adhere admirably in their anatomical constitution to the descriptions of the pygmies of old. Their health is excellent and their physical development perfect. All idea of morbid pathogeny must be rejected; they must be treated as a special variety of the human species, or at least as a marked variation of the human type.

If these dwarfs are rarities, it is probably because there is a constant advancement of the human race toward a higher type, with the progressive elevation of the stature. Little by little the dwarf type fades away, and, no doubt, it will finally disappear completely.

In a word, judging by their frames, by their physical characters, by the heredity of their low stature, and by the reproduction of the dwarf through several generations, it appears probable that the two cases studied by M. Poncet and M. Leriche have an ancestral origin and present the living evidence of a race of pygmies that formerly existed on French soil—that is to say, that some dwarfs living to-day may actually be the descendants of the pygmies of old.—Courier des Etats Unis.

10,000 PORCUPINES KILLED.

Bounty Demands Almost Swamped Maine State Treasurer.

Although but a few days have passed since the close of the State porcupine year, the returns of porcupines killed and paid for by the towns and plantations under the bounty act of last winter are beginning to swamp the State treasurer's office rapidly. They come in rolls, some of them as large as a man's arm. One roll was so big that the postage on it was 40 cents. The State had 20,000 blanks printed, and a Portland firm had as many more.

From one to 40 dead porcupines are represented by each blank on which a return is made. An official says that when the returns are all in they will show 10,000 porcupines killed.

Of the towns and plantations which have reported thus far, Whiting, in Washington county, shows the largest number of bounty-paying porcupines, 646, which at 25 cents each will cost the State $161.50 The other places which have thus far reported are Medford, 196; Prospect, 285; Harrington, 98; the town of Dedham and plantations of Macwahoc, Long and Highland.

The appropriation to pay the bounties for the year is $500, and it is thought the returns already in will nearly use this up. It is hinted that one of the first acts of the next Legislature may be to repeal the porcupine bounty law. The hunters are mostly boys. Many farmers think they do more damage by setting fires than they do good by killing porcupines.—Lewiston Journal.

Al. H. Wilson, in "Prince of Tatters."

Virginia Does a Little Better.

Kentucky had in 1900-1 10,513 teachers. The State granted to the schools $1,493,240.76. Local taxes voted for teachers' salaries amounted to $73,654. Tuition fees, etc., amounted to $18,967, and subscriptions by individuals to $144,431, making a total of $1,500,202.76. Assuming that this entire sum is devoted to the payment of teachers, which is not precisely the case (as no inconsiderable part, impossible to determine, goes to incidental expenses), each teacher in the State would receive the munificent sum of about $150 a year. Is there anything inviting or encouraging in such pay?

Public opinion requires an awakening and a quickening in respect of the payment of teachers.—Louisville Herald.